

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03338 130051Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

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R 121200Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1188

UNCLAS JIDDA 3338

PASS TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC

SUBJECT: INTERIM STAFFING OF USREP OFFICE RIYADH

REF: A. JIDDA 3250; B. JIDDA 3177; C. STATE 109145

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR MESSAGE SETTING FORTH THE TREASURY RATIONALE ON INTERIM STAFFING IN RIYADH. YOUR DESIRE TO BEGIN WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IS SHARED BY EVERY MEMBER OF MY STAFF. WE ARE READY AND WILLING TO DO OUR BEST TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS.

2. MY PRIMARY CONCERN IS THAT THE GREATEST POSSIBLE EFFORT BE MADE TO LAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE SUBSTANTIVE SIDE OF THE OFFICE CAN WORK UNHINDERED. I HAVE SEEN ALL TOO MANY EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS WHICH HAD SERIOUS DIFFICULTY BECAUSE THEY TRIED TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE OPERATIONS BEFORE THEY HAD CREATED AN ADEQUATE SUPPORT CAPABILITY. I AM SURE YOU SHARE OUR DESIRE TO AVOID THESE PROBLEMS.

3. AS INDICATED IN OUR EARLIER CABLES, WE HAVE DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH THE SAUDIS AND HAVE REFLECTED THEIR ATTITUDE IN OUR REPORTING. I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD IGNORE THEIR RESERVATIONS ABOUT INTERIM STAFFING. DR. MANSOOR AL TURKI HAS EXPRESSLY STATED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE LARGER SCALE VISIT AND APPROVED THE VISITS BY MOSER, HAPPEL, VISNICK AND HAYES, ALONG LINES REF A.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 03338 130051Z

4. I AM CONVINCED THAT OUR PREVIOUS SUGGESTIONS PRESENT THE BEST METHOD OF STARTING UP OPERATIONS IN RIYADH. THOSE SUGGESTIONS WERE BASED ON THE BEST JUDGMENT OF EXPERIENCED OFFICERS WHO ARE ON THE SCENE. FOR THESE REASONS I ASK YOU TO RESTRUCTURE YOUR INTERIM STAFFING PROPOSAL ALONG THE LINES SET FORTH IN REFTEL A. ANY TIME SPENT IN BUILDING A SOUND BASE WILL NOT BE WASTED. WE CAN AFFORD THE FEW WEEKS ADDITIONAL DELAY UNTIL JULY OR EVEN AUGUST IF THE RESULT IS A MORE EFFICIENTLY FUNCTIONING ORGANIZATION. I FEAR THAT A GROUP OF PEOPLE COMING FOR SUCH SHORT PERIODS COULD ACTUALLY RESULT IN SET-BACKS IN THE PROGRAM. WGUKE THE SAUDIS WILL BE RELIEVED THAT THEY ARE NOT BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR THE TRAVEL OR PER DIEM, I WOULD THINK THAT WE, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS PERIOD OF BUDGET STRINGENCY, WOULD HAVE TO LOOK CAREFULLY OURSELVES AT THE EXPENDITURES INVOLVED IN STAYS WHICH ARE SO SHORT THAT ORIENTATION WILL TAKE UP MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE TIME LEAVING NOTHING LEFT OVER FOR ADVANCING OUR GOALS.

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